

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Delmonte Pet Products

Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center

Lean Training brings Del Monte Pet Product Up to Speed

Client Profile:

Del Monte Pet Products, located in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, is a division of Del Monte Foods, one of the country's largest and most well known producers, distributors and marketers of premium quality, branded food and pet products for the U.S. retail market. The Bloomsburg facility operates as a fully integrated cannery, processing and labeling facility for both dry and canned pet foods, and employs 100 people.

Situation:

The Bloomsburg facility for Del Monte Pet Products is the only location with a cannery and dry manufacturing operation, which created several unique and challenging opportunities. Much of the equipment used for processing the dry goods was new and processes were still under development. This portion of the Del Monte's business was growing and demanded a structure to continue the process improvement cycle. Del Monte had already recognized beneficial results from earlier training in the process improvement tool of 6S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Safety) and was interested in expanding their continuous improvement efforts by training the entire workforce to achieve its efficiency goals. The company contacted the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NEPIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

NEPIRC worked with Del Monte Pet Products management to identify the company's current baseline manufacturing performance metrics and provide the framework for Del Monte to measure their progress towards becoming more efficient. The organization decided to train a shop floor facilitator, a steering team, and all process-related employees in the Del Monte Production System's unique approach to continuous improvement. NEPIRC built a one-hour Lean Enterprise program around the Del Monte Production System for the training of all 400 employees. The scope of work was designed to provide Del Monte Pet Products with a solid foundation for larger continuous improvement initiatives such as Value Stream Mapping, and process improvement event activities. By turning to NEPIRC for assistance with this project, the company benefited by properly and efficiently launching the Del Monte Production System throughout their entire workforce.

Results:

* Increased operating efficiencies by 63 percent.

Testimonial:

"The relationship established with NEPIRC has proven to be beneficial. The training presented to Del Monte allowed us to provide all of our employees with the foundations of Lean Manufacturing in a very concise and timely manner that would not have otherwise been possible. Building this large group of

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Lean educated employees gave Del Monte the opportunity to deploy the tools of Lean much faster."
Joseph Glowaski, Manager, Del Monte Production System